

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/34977

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/00; G06N 5/02

US CL : 706/47

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 706/47; 705/29, 364/468

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

ACM, IEEE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/0073001 A1 (Palmer et al) 13 June 2002 (13.6.2002).	1-5, 7-8, 12-22
A	US 5,463,555 A (Ward et al) 31 October 1995 (31.10.1995).	1-8, 12-22
A, E	US 2004/0024891 A1 (Agrusa et al) 05 February 2004 (5.2.2004).	1-5, 7-8, 11-22
A	Bradford, R. and Stuehler, J., The Role of Process Data in Controlling and Optimizing Manufacturing Processes, IEEE Transactions on Manufacturing Technology, 6/1972, Vol. 1 Issue 1, pgs. 5-9.	1-5, 7-8, 11-22
A	Long, E. and Misra, A., A Model-Based Engineering Process for Increasing Productivity in Discrete Manufacturing, Engineering of Computer-Based Systems, 24 March 1997, pgs. 197-202.	1-5, 7-8, 11-22

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 March 2004 (19.03.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

14 APR 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claim Nos.: 18 and 19
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Please See Continuation Sheet
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such
an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all
searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite
payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report
covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is
restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Box 1 Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable 1. because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

1. Claim 18 recites a method for providing a manufacturing control engine capable of receiving and processing data to generate manufacturing control instructions, which can be accomplished solely on a computer and does not appear to produce a concrete, tangible, and useful result.

Claim 19 further recite the step of providing a "data store" to store abstract "manufacturing rules" and "manufacturing environment conditions", which can also be accomplished solely on a computer and does not appear to produce a concrete, tangible, and useful result.

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